

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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5 MARCH 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Cyprus

a. Thant now has authority to proceed to set up a UN peacekeeping force following passage of the Security Council resolution yesterday.

b. Sweden, the key country in forming the force, has not yet decided whether to participate. One hopeful sign yesterday was that all Swedish press commentators, though stressing their apprehensions, concluded that Sweden simply could not leave the UN in the lurch.

c. In Ireland, Foreign Minister Aiken gave our ambassador the impression that his country would not participate in the force.

d. Thant's plan to appoint Indian General Gyani as force commander was leaked to the press before consultation with the Turks.

e. Thant told Ambassador Stevenson in strictest confidence yesterday that he planned to designate UN official, Rolz-Bennett, as Cyprus mediator.

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(Cont'd)

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f. In Thant's view this would be the best way to exert his own influence in the situation--something he proposes to do.

2. Greece

a. Slogans carried by demonstrators in Athens and Thessalonika are becoming more sharply anti-American; some reflect heavy Communist influence.

b. Meanwhile, newspapers of all shades are attacking US policy.

c. The present bitterness, which Embassy Athens terms as bad as any during the 1955-59 Cyprus crisis, is caused by what the Greeks regard as Washington's pro-Turkish attitude. Press treatment of recent joint US-Turkish naval exercises in the Aegean Sea has also contributed to the resentment.

d. The government, responding to public pressures, has cancelled permission for VOA use of official Greek radio facilities. The press has charged that the VOA broadcasts are unfair to the Greek Cypriots.

e. [redacted] that the attitude of military leaders is hardening against the US. We are being accused either of following blindly behind [redacted]

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3. South Vietnam

a. General Khanh faces a difficult task in his attempts to harness and control disparate religious and political groups.

b. He has appointed Le Van Tat, a general of the Cao Dai forces, as chief of Tay Ninh province where the the Cao Dai sect controls about a third of the population.

c. Khanh's move risks creating discontent among some civilians and military officers who fear a resurgence of the Cao Dai. The sect maintained a large autonomous army until subdued by the Diem regime in 1955.

d. A captured Viet Cong officer claims the Communists view government efforts to rally the Cao Dai as a threat to their major base in Tay Ninh Province, which is adjacent to Cambodia. The Communists are intensifying their own efforts to sow dissension among Cao Dai factions.

e. Meanwhile, Khanh's reshuffling of military commanders continues to cause some dissatisfaction.

f.
 Khanh's reinstatement of Diem's former commander of the marine brigade has driven morale to an all-time low.

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4. USSR-
Germany

a. A minor procedural matter between Allied and Soviet military authorities in Germany could mushroom into a big dispute.

b. Last January the Soviets directed the Allies to remove the curtains from military vehicles used by the three Western military liaison missions accredited to the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. No deadline was specified.

c. The Allies responded by demanding that Soviet Military Liaison Mission vehicles to West Germany be painted khaki and inscribed with the Soviet national insignia by 10 March.

d. The Soviets have already said they will not paint their vehicles. US officials in Bonn feel that the Allies cannot retreat from their 10 March deadline. They are concerned that any Soviet refusal to compromise could result in a confrontation similar to that of March 1962.

e. At that time, East German personnel fired on a US vehicle and detained it for 26 hours. The US retaliated by confining Soviet liaison personnel to their Frankfurt quarters, whereupon the Soviets imposed similar restrictions on US personnel in Potsdam.

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f. The impasse was subsequently resolved in talks between top-ranking military leaders.

5. Sino-Soviet relations

a. [REDACTED]

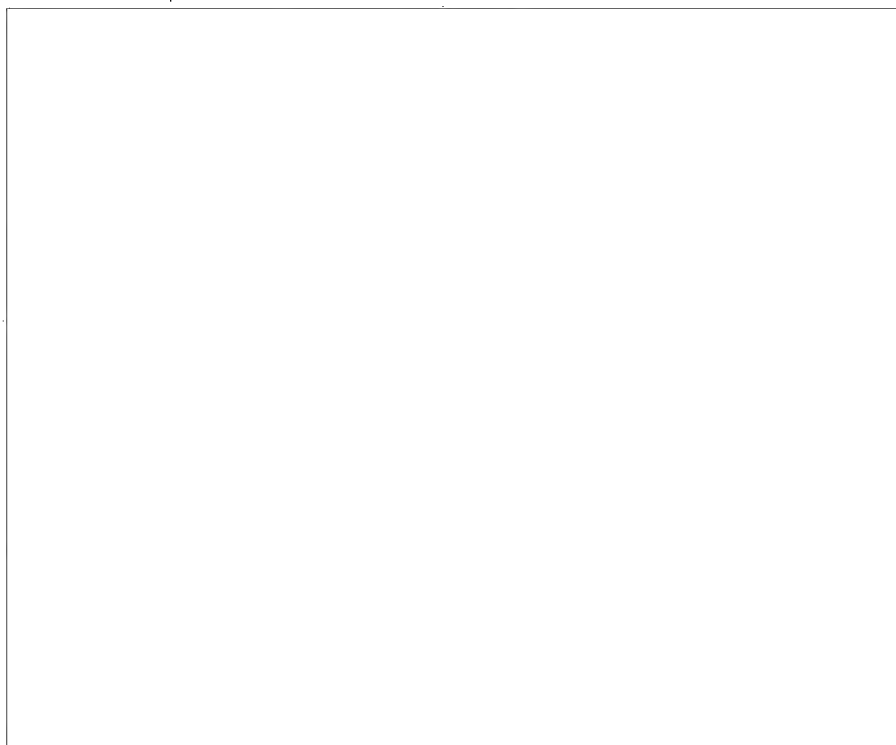
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the USSR is getting ready for another showdown with China.

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6. USSR

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7. Saudi Arabia-
Egypt-Yemen

a. The talks in Riyadh between an Egyptian delegation and Saudi Crown Prince Faysal have resulted in agreement to resume diplomatic relations.

b. The joint statement at the conclusion of the talks implied that little progress was made in resolving differences over Yemen, but the fact that Faysal will meet with Nasir in Cairo late next month for further talks is a hopeful sign.

(Cont'd)

c. In Yemen, President Sallal has announced plans to visit Moscow late this month. Sallal hopes to receive further economic aid and possibly military equipment.

d. The USSR has not started any projects since the airport at al-Rawdha near Sana was completed last fall. Since then, the number of Soviet personnel in Yemen declined from 1,000 to around 400.

8. France-
USSR

a. Speculation on the purpose of Edgar Faure's visit to Moscow this month is beginning to roll in.

b. Faure has been credited with laying the groundwork for the resumption of diplomatic relations between France and Communist China.

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f. Yesterday's press reports that De Gaulle plans to sign a major economic agreement with the Soviet Union we think should be taken with a large grain of salt.

g. France is going to negotiate a new commercial protocol with the USSR this summer

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h. With respect to the other press speculation that France will torpedo the Kennedy round, we are much less certain. However, the available information would seem to point to France's being a most difficult negotiator at the May talks, but not vetoing EEC participation.

9. Gabon

a. Ambassador Darlington reports that the rumors crediting the US with supporting and financing the revolt against President Mba are having a peculiar effect.

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b. Crowds which are almost entirely anti-French and anti-government often wave and clap as the ambassador's car passes.

c. Darlington comments that there is no indication as yet that Mba's confidence in the US has been shattered. However, he says the fact that anti-government crowds clearly consider the American Embassy on their side may at any time start to be resented by the government.

d. Further proof that the French are behind these rumors comes from Brussels, where Ambassador MacArthur was read a telegram from the Belgian Ambassador in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The Belgian reported the French military there were openly stating the US instigated the recent army revolt in Gabon.

NOTES

- A. USSR-Hungary Khrushchev is expected in Budapest at the end of March for a one week stay amid a resurgence of rumors that the USSR will pull its troops out of Hungary. It could do so at any time without any particular military disadvantage.

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- C. India-Pakistan Five "Pakistani infiltrators" were killed yesterday, according to an Indian spokesman, as incidents on the cease-fire line in Kashmir continue. Pakistan has requested the reopening of debate on the Kashmir dispute at the UN Security Council next week, and Ayub claims his government is determined to give the Indian Government no rest on the issue until a settlement is reached.

- D. Brazil-USSR [] Brazilian Communist Party members are [] on their way to attend a [] political training course in the USSR.

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- E. Malaysia-Indonesia The press reports this morning that the tripartite talks are on again after yesterday's collapse. Thai Foreign Minister Thanat and Philippine Foreign Secretary Lopez are credited with last minute efforts to get the talks back on the track.

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